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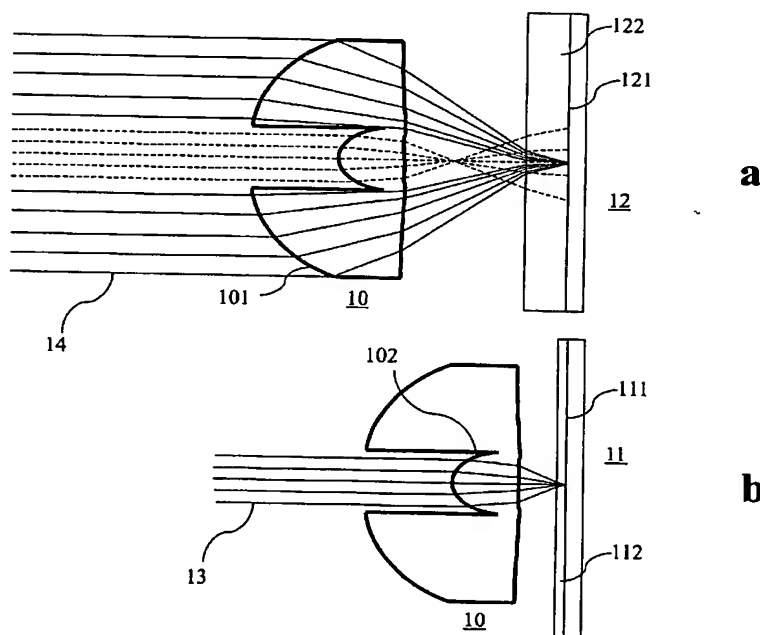
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## Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: OBJECTIVE LENS AND SCANNING DEVICE USING SUCH AN OBJECTIVE LENS



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to an objective lens and an optical device for scanning different information carriers having different cover layer thicknesses, with different numerical apertures. The objective lens (10, 20) comprises at least an annular part (101, 201) having a first numerical aperture and a central part (102, 203) having a second numerical aperture. The second numerical aperture is higher than the first numerical aperture.



EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G11B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EP0-Internal

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 1 197 960 A (FUJI PHOTO OPTICAL CO LTD) 17 April 2002 (2002-04-17)	1,4,5
Y	page 5, line 6 - page 11, line 5; figures	10
Y	US 6 115 347 A (ICHIMURA ISAO ET AL) 5 September 2000 (2000-09-05) column 3, line 3 - column 9, line 11; figures	10
A	US 6 124 988 A (YANAGISAWA TAKUMA ET AL) 26 September 2000 (2000-09-26) column 2, line 58 - column 6, line 22; figures	1-10
A	EP 0 865 037 A (HITACHI LTD) 16 September 1998 (1998-09-16) page 3, line 53 - page 9, line 14; figures	1-10

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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